

From: [Garrison, Geoffrey](#)
To: [Bellow, Bonnie](#); [Kluesner, Dave](#)
Subject: Fw: RE: Potential Environmental/Health Issues Related to Diageo Storage Warehouse Emissions
Date: Thursday, February 14, 2013 2:35:44 PM
Attachments: [Image.image001.jpg@01CD6021.D3AED4D0.PLAIN](#)

Here (see below) is my description of events way back when. We have been dealing with this since July 2012 and have not been able to give the people in Enfield Green and William's Delight an answer as to any potential health effects. We have been working very closely with VI DEP on this every time we get a call, in fact they got one today. When we approached CDC they tell us that they need an official request from VIDOH for them to start a health assesment. Of course this has been looked at in other states, but it is more of a concern here because of the cistern water, closeness of the homes to the warehouse, and the year round warm weather.

Geoff

-----Forwarded by Geoffrey Garrison/R2/USEPA/US on 02/14/2013 02:30PM -----

To: Geoffrey Garrison/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, David Rosoff/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
From: "Chew, Ginger L. (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)" <gjc0@cdc.gov>
Date: 07/12/2012 11:32AM
Cc: Dave Kluesner/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, EricJ Wilson/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Leah Escobar/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: RE: Potential Environmental/Health Issues Related to Diageo Storage Warehouse Emissions

Hello Geoff,

Thank you for the detailed description of the issue and also the very good examples of the fungal growth in the photos. This is very helpful.

I would be happy to participate in a conference call. I'm free today (July12) at 1-2pm or 4:30pm or tomorrow (July 13) 9am-1pm or after 3pm.

Take care,

Ginger

Ginger L. Chew, ScD
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From: Geoffrey Garrison [mailto:Garrison.Geoffrey@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2012 8:31 AM
To: David Rosoff; Chew, Ginger L. (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)
Cc: Dave Kluesner; EricJ Wilson; Leah Escobar
Subject: Potential Environmental/Health Issues Related to Diageo Storage Warehouse Emissions

David, Ginger,

DPNR has received complaints from local residents, and from personnel working in territorial agency offices that are located in close proximity to the new DIAGEO (rum distillery) storage warehouse. My understanding, (please don't quote me) is that certain quantities of rum produced in the DIAGEO facility are stored there inside wood barrels (or casks) for aging and flavor. This allows for certain amounts of emissions (known as the "Angel's Share") to the tune of an additional 900 plus tons of VOC's (again don't quote me on the exact amounts, I do not have a copy of the air operating permit). I say additional, because in the same general area, another smaller distillery (Cruzan Rum) stores their barrels.

Since the new DIAGEO warehouse has been in place, (or maybe it was present before but not as pronounced with the previous loading) a black growth is now developing on the surfaces of homes and objects within a certain radius of the facility. Hence the complaints and the concerns for potential health issues since it appears that it is also growing inside the homes and offices including air conditioning systems.

The VI Department of Environmental Protection is in the process of requesting assistance from the Univ of VI in taking samples, but have not located a lab to analyze them yet.

I attached a few photographs that show the growth. The first three show a road sign just outside of the facility, front and back along with a close-up of the the clusters growing on the bare metal back. Note that as a background, I checked other road signs further away and up wind of the facility, they did not show signs of this black growth. The 4th photograph is a yellow bus from the offices of the nearby VI Dept of Human Resources, according to personnel there, it has been stationary for about two years but only started displaying the black growth after the DIAGEO warehouse was put into operation. The 5th photo shows a typical roof also at VI DHS. This roof/house coating has been a common complaint with residents further away. The 6th photo shows a paper towel used to wipe the directional blades on an AC from inside a VI DHS office that they reported as recently "cleaned."

I don't know where this is headed. It could just be an esthetics issue, or end up being a release with environmental/health issues. That is why we are raising the concern at this time. I did a quick internet search and found this nugget from Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel%27s_share#Angels.27_share:

Angels' share

"Angels' share" is a term for the portion (share) of a wine or [distilled spirit's volume](#) that is lost to [evaporation](#) during aging in oak barrels. The barrels are typically French or American oak. In low [humidity](#) conditions, the loss to evaporation may be primarily [water](#). However, in higher humidities, more [alcohol](#) than [water](#) will evaporate, therefore reducing the alcoholic strength of the product. In humid climates, this loss of ethanol is associated with the growth of a darkly colored fungus, the [Angels' Share fungus](#), *Baudoinia compniacensis*, on the exterior surfaces of buildings, trees and other vegetation, and anything else that happens to be nearby. [\[6\]](#)

This could be a possible explanation, however, it is still an unknown. Ginger, I would like to set up a conference call, at your convenience, that includes David Rosoff as an OSC and Angela Arnold as a DPNR DEP representative, about the possibility of getting a preliminary "look" at samples of this particular growth.

Thanks,

Geoff

Geoffrey Garrison

340-201-5328

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